

would not expect anybody to question our right to go after the al-Qaida terrorists who killed thousands of innocent American civilians, that was the theme today in raising Israel's right of self-defense.

President Bush has said that there will not be any daylight between the United States and Israel and he has been a strong supporter of Israel. I applaud his decision to send Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Mideast. It is a very difficult assignment that the Secretary of State now has. It is my hope there may be some moderate Arab leaders who will come forward to be able to have meaningful negotiations. President Mubarak of Egypt has, for over the past two decades, been a tower of strength. Of course, he has been the recipient of approximately \$2 billion a year for more than the past two decades, totaling close to \$50 billion at this point.

On a recent trip I made to the Mideast, I had the opportunity to visit with King Abdullah of Jordan, a vibrant young man in his late thirties, who is taking over the mantle of his father, King Hussein, and is ready, willing, and able to be a voice of reason in the Mideast. I also met with the King of Morocco, who is also in his late thirties. He also has promise. So there is a new generation of leadership in the Mideast.

When I was in the Mideast on Tuesday, March 26, I had an opportunity to be briefed by General Anthony Zinni, our chief negotiator there, and then had an opportunity to meet with Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Late that evening, I traveled to Ramallah to meet with Yasser Arafat. I carried forward the administration's message, and that is for Arafat to make a clear, unequivocal statement in Arabic to stop the suicide bombers. As usual, Chairman Arafat said he would. Of course, again, as usual, nothing has ever been done by him.

Then the next day, Wednesday, March 27, there was the suicide bombing at the Passover seder in Netanya. Hundreds were wounded and 27 people were killed. It had been my hope that the Saudi peace plan would come to some fruition if the Saudis would stand up. I was really chagrined to see Saudi Arabia have a telethon for Palestinians and gather some \$92 million. The thought on my mind was: When was Saudi Arabia going to have a telethon to raise money for the families of the thousands of victims who perished on September 11 in a terrorist attack, with 19 terrorists, 15 of whom came from Saudi Arabia?

So in the midst of these very difficult times, this was a large gathering assembled at the west end of the Capitol—a larger group than customarily meets for the inauguration of the American President. Here, the crowd went beyond the statue on horseback. The crowd was on all sides. It was very emotional, and a very enthusiastic showing of support for Israel.

I thought it might be useful, in the absence of any other Senator, to make this brief report for those who may not have captured it on C-SPAN earlier, to get some of the flavor of the passion, emotion, and determination of this cavalry of more than 100,000 people.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

THE STEEL INDUSTRY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, apparently, there are people who believe that we are cynical in raising the question of the rights of the steelworkers and coal workers to their medical costs, and some attempt to find a cash stream that will help in making the transition for the steel industry as it is consolidated.

I want the Senate to know that the motivation for thinking about steel and the steelworkers came from the provisions in the House bill H.R. 4, that contains ANWR, that allocated a portion of the bid moneys from the opening of ANWR to some conservation objectives. We looked at this problem and decided there were some moneys that could be used and what should be used as far as stimulating the future of our own State.

The Alaska gas pipeline is the real focal point of our future development. ANWR is an addition—that is, the drilling in the 1002 area on the Arctic coast, that million and a half acres there—and is the immediate objective. But the long-term objective is to find a way to transport the natural gas that has been reinjected into the ground since 1968.

As oil was produced in the Arctic, the natural gas was separated and it was reinjected into the ground. We know there is in excess of 50 trillion cubic feet of gas there—maybe 75 trillion cubic feet of gas. But the point is, as one who is interested in national security, I believe there are three major industries in this country of great concern to us in time of national problems of a military nature or security nature. One is agriculture; the second is oil; and then there is steel. When we look at the steel industry, it is the real backbone of our manufacturing infrastructure. But it has huge challenges right now, including dumping from overseas producers, and high internal costs have caused bankruptcies. Over 30 steel companies in this country have entered bankruptcy since the year 2000. That has impacted 60,000 workers. These 30-plus companies represent more than 21 percent of the domestic steel-producing industry.

In 1980, there were more than 500,000 U.S. steelworkers. By 2000, the number of steelworkers fell to 224,000. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that this number will fall to 176,000 by the end of this decade. That would be a 22-percent reduction in steel-related jobs. Domestic steel shipments were down 14 percent in the first quarter of 2001. In the last 3 years alone, 23,000 steel jobs have been lost. Those who remain employed in the industry help pay for a portion of the 6,000 retirees and their benefits. Those benefits represent a promise that was made to previous workers for their contribution to building America's military-civilian infrastructure.

Our steel industry must undergo consolidation now, but it can only take place if the existing cost structures are addressed. That primarily means taking care of the health care costs for retirees. Failure to address that issue will not only impact retirees, it threatens current workers who are faced with the prospect of more mill closings and more lost jobs.

Forty-seven percent of the steelworkers are unemployed in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. Forty-five percent of the steel jobs relate directly to production. Consolidation is an absolute must if we are to protect those jobs and failure to address this issue impacts steel States.

Why should I be interested in steel? One is defense, as I said. Steel is required to build tanks, fighters, transport planes, helicopters, ships, missiles, and other military items.

During hearings in the House and Senate last month, Robert Miller, chairman and CEO of Bethlehem Steel, testified on the problems of the steel industry. He told Senators integrated producers provide the highest quality steel for steel applications.

Bethlehem Steel is the only domestic company with the capacity to provide the special steel plate that was required to repair the U.S.S. *Cole*. Unfortunately, Bethlehem Steel is currently in chapter 11, about ready to go into chapter 7 bankruptcy. What are we going to do for sales for our military ships if we lose our own domestic steel production?

Our interest is in the gas pipeline. Alaska's natural gas pipeline will be over 3,000 miles long, almost as long as the Great Wall of China. It will be the most expensive project financed by private capital in the history of man. It will be totally privately financed.

The gas pipeline requires over 3,000 miles of 52-inch pipe that cannot be made in the United States at the present time. It requires an additional 2,000 miles of gathering pipelines and production facilities. It will take 5.2 million tons of steel. It will take \$3 billion to \$5 billion in steel orders. That cannot be done by the United States steel industry today. They cannot even hope to participate in the building of that pipeline. They will not participate unless the issue of the health care costs for retired employees is settled.

Just this morning I had a notice from a friend of mine who told me this:

Presently, there are only two steel mills in the world that are capable of delivering the pipe needed for our pipeline as it is presently designed. The design will require one-half of the world's capability to produce pipe during the period of its construction. If the producers start work on the project this year, it would take until 2010 or 2011 for gas to actually reach the U.S. market. There are over 18 months of work required to complete enough of the design and permitting prior to ordering the pipe. For orders placed in 2003, the pipe materials would be delivered in the year 2007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND, TARJA HALONEN

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting to the Senate the distinguished President of the Republic of Finland, President Tarja Halonen.

Mr. President, for the time between when Senator STEVENS relinquishes the floor and the time the vote starts, I ask unanimous consent that our guests be granted the privilege of the floor during the vote so they can meet Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask that the unanimous consent request be amended so that I might make a statement on the nominee who will be voted on at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. HELMS. Absolutely.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent I regain the floor after the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming.

NOMINATION OF TERRENCE L. O'BRIEN

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from North Carolina and the Senator from Alaska for their courtesies. I appreciate this opportunity to speak on behalf of the circuit court judge who we will be voting on at 5:30 p.m.

I am so pleased we are having this vote. I have known Terry O'Brien both personally and professionally for over 22 years. I am proud of my association and friendship with him. It is not often that we get to vote on a close friend in this body.

In a few minutes, I and my colleagues will have the opportunity to vote to confirm Terry O'Brien to serve on the Tenth Circuit. The Senate Judiciary Committee recognized that Terry is highly qualified to serve in this position when it unanimously voted him out of committee. While the committee members had an opportunity to review Terry's accomplishments and get to know him during his hearing, I would

like to share some information about Terry with the rest of my colleagues.

After Terry served as a captain in the U.S. Army and worked as an attorney at the Division of Land and Natural Resource in the Department of Justice, he came back to Wyoming to practice law in Buffalo at the law firm of Omohundro & O'Brien. Then in 1980, he was appointed to be a district judge for the Sixth Judicial District in Wyoming located in Gillette, WY. As a result, he moved to Gillette where he remained for 22 years.

Terry continued to be our judge until he retired from that position 2 years ago. As mayor of Gillette, I had an opportunity to observe what the local district judge just down the street from my business was doing in the community. Believe me, those who came before him let me know what they thought, too. What I saw and people observed is that Terry had a no-nonsense, fair approach to the law and to the parties involved. He made his decisions based squarely on the law, the facts, and careful consideration, and he explained his reasons for what he was doing. Even if you were the party or the attorney who lost, you always knew where he stood because he took the time to be certain to explain his reasoning and rationale to you.

My other observation is that Terry ran his court effectively, professionally, and efficiently. He never wasted anyone else's time nor let any of the parties or their attorneys waste each other's time, either.

As to his decisions, they are not full of legal jargon or unnecessary words. Instead, he explains the law so everyone can understand it. To me, this makes him a very good judge and an exceptional writer.

On a personal level, we have known each other over 22 years. We were in the same community for that time and watched each other's children grow up. Terry always cared about our community and made many contributions to it. One notable contribution is the 13 years he served as the president and a member of the board of directors of the Campbell County Health Care Foundation.

But the most important thing I want to stress is the fact that I have gotten to know Terry both professionally and personally. I can give my personal assurance that our country will benefit from his many talents. I am confident he will be a stellar judge for the Tenth Circuit Court, and I am proud to make this recommendation to my colleagues in the Senate.

He began his service to our country as a captain in the U.S. Army, and I hope you will help him to continue his service as a U.S. Tenth Circuit Court judge.

I thank the Chair for this opportunity to talk about my friend, Terry O'Brien.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I know we are close to the voting time. I recommend to all of my friends in the Senate that we approve Judge O'Brien. Certainly, no one has been as qualified, as my colleague pointed out.

In the appointment process, we had a committee sort through the judge prospects in our State, and they came up with Judge O'Brien as the judge they thought would be best qualified. I thank the committee for moving this matter along.

He is one of the few circuit judges who has been approved, and we certainly look forward to his approval by the full Senate.

Again, I recommend him without any question to be a circuit court judge in the Tenth Circuit.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I repeat for emphasis that we have the President of Finland in our midst today. She will be here to meet the Senators as they come in to vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair welcomes our guests.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TERRENCE L. O'BRIEN, OF WYOMING, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will go into Executive session and proceed to the consideration of the nomination of Terrence L. O'Brien, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Terrence L. O'Brien, of Wyoming, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate is voting on the 43rd judicial nominee to be confirmed since last July when the Senate Judiciary Committee reorganized after the Senate majority changed. With today's vote on Judge Terrence O'Brien to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, the Senate will confirm its eighth circuit court judge in little more than 9 months, since I became chairman this past summer.

The Senate is making progress on judicial confirmations. Under Democratic leadership, the Senate has confirmed more judges in the last 9 months than were confirmed in 4 out of 6 full years under Republican leadership. The number of judicial confirmations over these past 9 months—43 exceeds the number confirmed during all 12 months of 2000, 1999, 1997 and 1996.

During the preceding 6½ years in which a Republican majority most recently controlled the pace of judicial confirmations in the Senate, 248 judges were confirmed.

Some like to talk about the 377 judges confirmed during the Clinton administration, but forget to mention that more than one-third were confirmed during the first 2 years of the